

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 6:02 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.
Roll Call	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell Vice Mayor Erin Knott David Anderson Don Cooney Jack Urban COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Eric Cunningham Shannon Sykes Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Commissioners Excused	Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Cunningham and Sykes. With a voice vote the motion passed.
Communications	An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications, but no communications were offered.
Neighborhood Communications	Neighborhood communications were received next. Representatives from the following neighborhood associations were present and addressed the City Commission: <u>Arcadia Neighborhood Association</u> Chris Adrian, Vice President Rex Brueggemann, Board Member <u>Community Youth</u> Nereyda Alvarado, Counselor in Training Gina Bello, Counselor in Training Madison McNair, Counselor in Training Tahj Mitchell, Counselor in Training Cynthia Moore, Recreation Aid Peter Aerts, Program Coordinator <u>Lakeside Beach Corporation</u> Jim McIntyre, President
Arcadia Neighborhood Association	The Arcadia Neighborhood Association representatives: - spoke about their roots in Kalamazoo and their love for the Arcadia Neighborhood. - expressed concerns about overdevelopment, increased traffic volumes, and the lack of greenspace in the Neighborhood, especially near Linden Grove Middle School. - stated the Association was interested in partnering with Western Michigan University to improve the community.

- discussed the West Side Area Plan and noted that the future land use map in the IK2025 Master Plan had changed one side of West Michigan Avenue from Zone R1 to Zone R2 (medium density residential). Mr. Brueggemann noted this change was not supportive of the Association's goal to preserve the single family, owner occupied character of the Neighborhood.
- commented on the elimination of the Basswood Preserve that took place with the Arboretum development and how this was a failure to implement the open space requirements of the West Side Area Plan. Mr. Brueggemann asked the City to preserve publically accessible open space, both in the City at large and the Arcadia Neighborhood specifically.

Arcadia
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Knott, Mr. Adrian indicated the Association had received completed surveys from 140 out of 414 households in the Neighborhood.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Brueggemann indicated there was virtually nothing left of the Basswoods – just a few scattered strips of green. Mr. Brueggemann observed the number of units developed on the Arboretum site was the same before and after the approval of the West Side Area Plan, which suggested the plan had no impact on the Arboretum development.

Mr. Adrian stated the WMU Foundation did not develop land well, and he thanked City staff for their creative design of the Kendall Avenue roundabout, which saved the east side of the Neighborhood.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Brueggemann reported that Tim Housler, the owner of the farmhouse on West Michigan Avenue, did not have specific plans for the property but thought it would be developed with duplexes. Mr. Brueggemann asked that new development on West Michigan Avenue be consistent with current zoning.

Vice Mayor Knott reported she had hiked the area with Mr. Brueggemann a few weeks earlier and confirmed the Basswoods were gone.

The Community Youth representatives:

Community Youth

- introduced themselves, stated where they went to school, and described how they had been involved in the City's summer programs.
- described their roles as Counselors in Training (CIT's) and how they worked with kids in the various camps.
- discussed how being a CIT had made an impact on their lives .
- noted CIT's provided approximately 5,200 volunteer hours each summer.

Community Youth
(cont'd)

In response to a question from Commission Urban, Mr. Mitchell said taking the kids places – places like Kik Pool, the Air Zoo, fishing, kayaking, and the movies – is what made being a CIT fun.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. McNair stated there were 40 kids registered at the Mayor's Riverfront Park, and approximately 30 came each day. Mr. Aerts explained all the Super Rec sites had over 40 kids registered, but there needed to be at least 1 adult for every 10 kids, which limited the number of kids each site could handle to 40.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney Ms. McNair reported the kids had 30 minutes of reading time every day after lunch. Ms. Moore clarified the older kids read on their own, and staff read to the younger kids.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Aerts stated there was not a good way for staff to check on the reading levels of the kids or to monitor progress because many of the kids were not regular attenders. Mr. Aerts stated the Parks and Recreation Department was partnering with Kalamazoo Public Library and Read and Write Kalamazoo, and he noted Kalamazoo Public Library would be providing books recommended by Kalamazoo Public Schools for the different ages/grades.

Lakeside Beach
Corporation

The Lakeside Beach Corporation representatives:

- reported the Corporation, which included 78 houses, held an annual meeting in May and a summer picnic.
- expressed concern about speeding traffic on Bronson Boulevard and suggested the addition of bike lanes.
- stated having lake access was both a curse and a blessing.
- indicated the Corporation had hired architects to brainstorm ways to counteract the loss of beach area due to high water.

In response to questions from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. McIntyre stated there were problems with weeds in the lake, and the Corporation tested the water regularly through the Kalamazoo County Health Department. Mr. McIntyre indicated geese were the biggest issue for the beach.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. McIntyre stated most houses were at least 35 feet above the lake level, and flooding was not an issue.

Citizen Comments

When an opportunity was given for citizen comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Jodi Dozeman, City resident, spoke about cleaning up the community and putting up a fence between Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and the railroad.

An opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments by City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner
Comments

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on August 20, 2018

Approved by: _____

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: August 20, 2018